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APPLICATION

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FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, VESTER L. LAMBERT & HELENE D.
25 LAMBERT, citizens of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a
new and useful BLOCK POSITIONING TOOL of which the following is a
specification:

BLOCK POSITIONING TOOL

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to positioning devices and more particularly pertains to a new positioning device for aiding in the positioning of pier blocks in a uniform spatial pattern.

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Description of the Prior Art

The use of positioning devices, particularly those for constructing decks, is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 6,949,015 describes a device for the spacing and positioning of vertical pickets. Another type of positioning device is U.S. Patent No. 5,937,613 for aligning studs.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device for aligning pier blocks along straight lines and in such a manner that they are precisely spaced from each other.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by generally comprising a first elongated member and a second elongated member attached together in a generally perpendicular relationship with respect to each other such that a L-shaped frame is formed. The frame has an upper

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surface and a bottom surface. The first elongated member has a slot therein extending through the upper and bottom surfaces. The second elongated member has a slot therein extending through the upper and bottom surfaces. Each of the first and second elongated members has an associated attached end and a free end. A plurality of position indicators is attached to and selectively moveable along a length of the slots of one of the first and second elongate members. A primary anchor is attached to a bottom surface of the attached end. Each of a plurality of secondary anchors is attached to one of the position indicators and positioned adjacent to the bottom surface. Each of the secondary anchors and the primary anchor is removably positionable into depressions extending into an upper surface of pier blocks.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a block positioning tool according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic top view of the present invention.

5 Figure 3 is a schematic enlarged view of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of figure 3 of the present invention.

10 Figure 5 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 5-5 of figure 3 of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

15 With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 5 thereof, a new positioning device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

20 As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 5, the block positioning tool 10 generally comprises a first elongated member 14 and a second elongated member 16 attached together in a generally perpendicular relationship with respect to each other such that a L-shaped frame 12 is formed. The frame 12 has an upper surface 18 and a bottom surface 20. The first elongated member 14 has a slot 22 therein extending through the upper 18 and bottom 20 surfaces and the second elongated member 16 also has a slot 22 therein extending through the upper 18 and bottom 20 surfaces. Each of the first 14 and second 16 elongated members has an associated attached end 24 and a free end 26. The upper surfaces 18 of 25 each of the first 14 and second 16 elongated members have measurement indicia 28 thereon from the attached end 24 to the free ends 26. The first elongated member 14 generally measures between 2.5 feet and 3.5 feet and

the second elongated member 16 generally measuring between 3.5 feet and 4.5 feet. A brace 30 is attached to an extended between the first 14 and second 16 elongated members.

5 A plurality of position indicators 32 is attached to and each is selectively moveable along a length of one of the first 14 and second 16 elongate members. Each of the indicators 32 includes a threaded rod 34 that extends through one of the slots 22. A marker 36 is mounted on each of the rods 34 and is positioned on the upper surface 18. A securing knob
10 38 is threadably coupled to each of the rods 34 and positioned above the upper surface 18 for selectively securing the rods 34 in a fixed position. It is preferred that at least one position indicator is positioned on each of the first 14 and second 16 elongated members.

15 A primary anchor 40 is attached to a bottom surface 20 of the attached end 24. Each of a plurality of secondary anchors 42 is attached to one of the position indicators 32 and positioned adjacent to the bottom surface 20. The anchors 40, 42 are positionable in depressions located in an upper surface of pier blocks 8. Each of the secondary anchors 42 is
20 removably attached to a bottom end of one of the rods 34. Each of the primary 40 and secondary 42 anchors is generally four inches long and four inches wide. A plurality of stabilizers 44 extends through the slots and each is removably attached to one of the secondary anchors 42. Preferably, a pair of the stabilizers 44 is removably attached to each of the
25 secondary anchors 42. The stabilizers 44 prevent the secondary anchors 42 from rotating with respect to the frame 12 when the rod 34 is tightened.

 In use, the tool 10 is used for determining the positioning of pier blocks 8 as they are positioned. Specifically, the tool is designed for the
30 positioning of *Dek-Block* pier blocks, information on which can be found at www.dekbrands.com/block.html. The tool 10 enables a person to

selectively position these pier blocks 8 in a spaced relationship with respect to each in a uniform manner. The secondary anchors 42 are positioned where desired on the frame 12 and secured in place. The primary anchor 40 is placed in a first pier block and additional pier blocks
5 are positioned so that the secondary anchors 42 may be set into the additional pier blocks. Additional pier blocks are then added by positioning the primary anchor into the added pier blocks and so on until an evenly spaced matrix of pier blocks is formed.

10 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated
15 in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and
20 changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.